

**R E M A R K S**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner's allowance of claims 12-18 and the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 4-6, 8 and 9 are respectfully acknowledged.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention based on the subject matter indicated to be allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action. Claims 13-18 have been amended to better accord with the amended independent claim 12, as well as to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention based on the disclosure in the specification and drawings. New claims 36 and 37 have been added depending from claim 12 and reciting subject matter along the lines recited in (now canceled) claims 19 and 20.

New independent claim 21 has been added to recite the subject matter along the lines recited in allowable claim 4, including the subject matter along the lines recited in intervening claims 2 and 3, and parent claim 1.

New independent claim 24 has been added to recite the subject matter along the lines recited in allowable claim 5,

including the subject matter along the lines recited in intervening claims 2 and 3, and parent claim 1.

New independent claim 27 has been added to recite the subject matter along the lines recited in allowable claim 6, including the subject matter along the lines recited in intervening claim 2, and parent claim 1.

New independent claim 30 has been added to recite the subject matter along the lines recited in allowable claim 8, including the subject matter along the lines recited in parent claim 1.

New independent claim 33 has been added to recite the subject matter along the lines recited in allowable claim 9, including the subject matter along the lines recited in intervening claim 8, and parent claim 1.

New claims 22, 25, 28, 31 and 34 have been added to respectively depend from new independent claims 21, 24, 27, 30 and 33 to recite subject matter based on original claim 10.

And new claims 23, 26, 29, 32 and 35 have been added to respectively depend from new independent claims 21, 24, 27, 30 and 33 to recite subject matter based on original claim 11.

Claims 1-11 and 19-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections to claims 3, 10, 11, 19 and 20 are now rendered moot,

and it is respectfully requested that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that no new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered, and it is respectfully submitted that the new independent claims 21, 24, 27, 30 and 33, and all the claims respectively depending therefrom are now in condition for immediate allowance, and it is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claim 12 and the claims depending therefrom remain in condition for immediate allowance.

RE: THE SPECIFICATION

The specification (including the Abstract) has been amended to correct some minor informalities and/or to make some minor grammatical improvements. In particular, the Abstract has been amended to be within the range of 50 to 150 words as required by the Examiner.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

RE: CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 48 claims, including 2 independent claims, and the appropriate claim fee was paid for such claims. The application now contains 24 claims, including 6 independent claims. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$660.00 for the addition of 3 extra independent claims is submitted herewith. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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